

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY AUGUST 6, 2012

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JULY 3, 2012

AMENDED IN SENATE MAY 29, 2012

AMENDED IN SENATE MARCH 29, 2012

**SENATE BILL**

**No. 1190**

---

---

**Introduced by Senator Hancock  
(Coauthor: Senator Pavley)**

February 22, 2012

---

---

An act to add and repeal Section 123303 of the Health and Safety Code, relating to maternal and child health.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1190, as amended, Hancock. Women, infants, and children's nutrition.

Existing law, the California Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), under the administration of the State Department of Public Health, provides for the issuance of nutrition coupons, as defined, to certain low-income women, infants, and children who have been determined to be at nutritional risk. Existing law authorizes the department to design, implement, and fund an electronic benefits transfer (EBT) system for WIC. Existing law requires the department to develop a plan to determine the feasibility of implementing an EBT system for WIC by January 1, 2003, and to report its findings to the Legislature by July 1, 2003.

This bill would require the department to provide to the appropriate fiscal and policy committees of the Legislature, the Legislative Analyst's Office, and the office of the State Chief Information Officer ~~biannual~~, 2 briefings *per year, provided* within 30 days of the close of the first

and third quarter of each year and with the first quarter commencing on January 1, 2013, on the development of the EBT system, until the system is fully operational. This bill would repeal those provisions on January 1, 2023.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the  
2 following:

3 (a) An electronic benefits transfer (EBT) system for the  
4 California Special Supplemental ~~Nutrition~~ Food Program for  
5 Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) has not yet been implemented  
6 in California.

7 (b) Existing law directed the State Department of Health  
8 Services to develop a plan to determine the feasibility of  
9 implementing an EBT system for WIC by January 1, 2003.

10 (c) The current paper check system is cumbersome, outdated,  
11 stigmatizing for participants at the checkstand, and costly to  
12 operate.

13 (d) Several other states, including Texas, Michigan, Nevada,  
14 and New Mexico, have fully implemented an EBT system for  
15 WIC, while Pennsylvania, Oklahoma, and Arkansas are in the pilot  
16 phase of implementing an EBT system for WIC.

17 (e) Accordingly, it is the intent of the Legislature to implement  
18 an EBT system for WIC as soon as feasible.

19 SEC. 2. Section 123303 is added to the Health and Safety Code,  
20 to read:

21 123303. (a) The department shall provide to the appropriate  
22 fiscal and policy committees of the Legislature, the Legislative  
23 Analyst's Office, and the office of the State Chief Information  
24 Officer ~~biannual~~ briefings *twice a year* on the development of the  
25 electronic benefits transfer (EBT) system for the California Special  
26 Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, and Children,  
27 pursuant to Section 123302. These ~~biannual~~ briefings shall be  
28 provided within 30 days of the close of the first and third quarter  
29 of each year, with the first quarter commencing January 1, 2013,  
30 and shall continue until the EBT system is fully operational.

1     (b) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2023,  
2     and as of that date, is repealed.

O